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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/492,578	01/27/2000	Yasushi Shibuya	9333/226	1041

7590

10/06/2003

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EXAMINER

TOATLEY, GREGORY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/492,578

Applicant(s)

SHIBUYA ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory J. Toatley, Jr.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspond nce address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2000.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 January 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement received January 27, 2000 has been considered and entered into the application. See attached 1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter that the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In the independent claims 1, 8, 9 and 16 the limitation "... a display member and/or a control member..." It is unclear to the examiner if the applicant is claiming the elements in the alternative or in combination. For purposes of examination the elements will be considered to be claimed in the alternative.

Specification

5. The examiner respectfully suggests that the Applicant carefully review the specification for idiomatic and grammatical errors, which may have inadvertently overlooked.

Art Rejection Rationale

At the outset, the examiner notes that claims are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation during prosecution. In re Zletz, 893 F.2d 319, 321, 13 USPQ2d 1320, 1322 (Fed. Cir. 1989); In re Prater, 415 F.2d 1393, 1404, 162 USPQ 541, 550 (CCPA 1969); In re Yamamoto, 740 F.2d 1569, 222 USPQ 934 (Fed. Cir. 1984); Burlington Indus. V. Quigg, 822 F.2d 1581, 3 USPQ2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1987); In re Morris, 43 USPQ2d 1753, 1756 (Fed. Cir. 1997). In responding to this Office action, applicants are reminded of the requirements of 37 CFR §§ 1.111 and 1.119 that applicants specifically point out the specific distinctions believed to render the claims patentable over the references in presenting responsive arguments. See M.P.E.P. § 714.02. The support for any amendments made should also be specifically pointed out. See M.P.E.P. § 2163.06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

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consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 1, 3 - 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the reference of Muramatsu et al. (US 5815568 A) and Pflin (US 3832909 A). The reference of Muramatsu et al. discloses a in-car electronic device with a fixed front surface (see surface with openings of elements 21 and 31), a moveable member (40) which in a regular position covers the front surface and a surface of which provides a display (41) and a control member (42), a position changing means (45) for moving the panel (40) circularly 90 degrees and to be retracted into a opening (see figure 8). Also the reference of Muramatsu et al. discloses that the position changing means (motor, 45) is driven by a motor driver (51) which automatically moves the panel between a retracted position and a regular position as claimed in claim 3 and 5 (see figs. 6 – 8), and stops the panel in a aslant state in the middle of the motion to the retracted position as claimed in claim 4 (see fig. 7). The reference is silent regarding the panel being retracted flush with the fixed from surface as claimed. The reference of Pflin teaches of a in-car electronic device that also retracts and pivots at least 90 degrees; and additionally retracts flush with the front of a fixed surface as claimed. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the flush retraction teaching of the reference of Pflin into the invention of Muramatsu et al. in order to provide a means to have the retracted front panel completely out of the way of the user. Regarding the cover as claimed in claim 8, the reference of Pflin teaches of such a cover (see fig. 1 and 3) for sealing off the device in a compartment when it is not in use.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teach of a cover in the reference of Pflin into the invention of Muramatsu et al. in order to provide a means to keep the device out view when not in use.

9. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references Muramatsu et al. and Pflin as applied to claim 1 and 3 above, and further in view of the reference Joaille (US 5517345 A). The references of Muramatsu et al. and Pflin are silent regarding a secret control member or password as claimed. The reference of Joaille teaches of such a control member that uses a password in col. 3, line 45 – col. 4 line 10. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide the Pflin modified invention of Muramatsu with the secret control member and password teaching of Joaille in order to provide additional security for the system.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. Claims 9 - 20 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

- Prior art of record does not teach or suggest the protuberant portion of a end portion of the moveable member that closes the opening when the moveable member is moved toward the retracted position as claimed in claim 2;

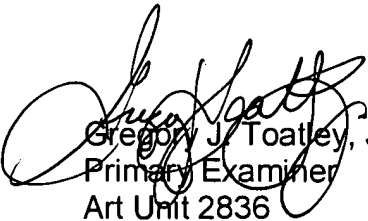
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- the combination of switching member, regular guiding portion, and shifting portion as claimed in claim 9; and
- the operation of the switching means moving forward and backward as claimed in claim 16.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory J. Toatley, Jr. whose telephone number is 703-308-7889. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. to 3 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703) 308-3119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.


Gregory J. Toatley, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2836

GJT Jr.